



*Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*

Peking
Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Final Report

GRAIN THRESHING MACHINES

Summary

Where?

Pizza འཕེལ་མུ་ and Tongxia Townships, Nagrong ཉག་རོང་ County, Ganze དགའ་མཛེས་ Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.

What?

Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households to Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls

Who?

285 Tibetan families (1,400 people) in 21 natural villages

Cost?

Donor: 78,800RMB

Local contribution: 8,000RMB

Letter of Appreciation

Dear German Embassy,

I am delighted to report on the successful implementation of this project which has eased the labor burden on Tibetan women and girls in the target area and had a significant positive impact on the lives of hundreds of people in remote districts of Nagrong County that are well-known for poverty. Locals struggle with limited opportunities to survive. It is under these circumstances that your support enabled 285 impoverished households consisting of approximately 1,400 people to receive grain threshing machines. Hence, one of the most time-consuming and difficult labor is turned into easy, brief, and shared labor.

Threshing grain in the traditional way requires much time and prevents women and girls from engaging in other productive activities. It is also an outdoor activity that exposes women and girls to harsh seasonal conditions and contributes to a pattern of chronic diseases. Previously, women and girls from these Tibetan communities worked around seven hours a day for months threshing grains; this task was added to an already overburdened household workload. Furthermore, as this task is performed during September, October, November, and parts of December, women and girls are subject to harsh weather conditions. Often, their toes and hands are covered with chilblains after they work for a week or so in the cold season. In addition, women are expected to do housework simultaneously and this increases the pain in their hands because they wash their hands repeatedly in cold water. The cold and wind in this high elevation area combined with labor responsibilities make women susceptible to various seasonal illnesses and such chronic maladies as arthritis. Fortunately, the German Embassy project has greatly alleviated these problems, especially for women and girls.

Another important impact of the German Embassy project is to support certain of the most impoverished local households with the local contribution. Households with disabled members and elderly people who have no means of support were selected as beneficiaries. These families face great difficulties in getting such basics as food and clothes.

On behalf of the 1,400 beneficiaries, I want to extend sincere appreciation to the German Embassy for its support of impoverished Tibetans. The project committee and I offer heartfelt appreciation for this opportunity to implement such a meaningful project.

Yours truly,

Sonam Wogyal

PHOTOGRAPHS



A threshing machine.
(1)



Loading the threshing machines on a truck.
(2)



These women and girls directly benefited from the machine in front of them.

(3)



Ms. Bedma Tsho is a mother of three children who are under the age of ten. Every year she spent 3 hours daily for 3 months to thresh grain while, simultaneously, doing housework and caring for her children. She is typical of many local women.

(4)



(5)

Palden's mother could not her while she was threshing consequently, Palden had to be absent many days from school during grain-threshing time. The German Embassy project has eliminated such absences.



(6)

Manager Sonam Wogyal posts a German Embassy emblem on the truck driven to the project site.

Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households To Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls

A: Brief Introduction of Locality

- a) **Project Name:** Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households to Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls
- b) **Project Location:** Pizza and Tongxia Townships, Nagrong County, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.
- c) **Ethnic Population:**
1,590 people from five administrative villages in Pizza Township and 1,310 people from Tongxia Township in Nagrong County. All are Tibetan.
- d) **Economic Situation of the Ethnic Group:**
- Grow barley, wheat, potatoes, beans, raise livestock, and collect and sell caterpillar fungus.
 - 90% of households have no income other than that earned from selling animal products and caterpillar fungus.
 - Local people often beg in other Tibetan areas for food. Local people also borrow money from Credit Cooperatives at very high interest rates.
- e) **Project Duration:** July to October 2007
- f) **Project Executors:** Sonam Wongyal and the Project Committee
- g) **Contact Information:**

Contact Person:	Kevin Stuart, Sonam Wogyal, and Yeshi Gyaltsu
Address:	English Training Program, Qinghai Nationalities Teachers' College Qinghai Normal University, Xining City 810008, China.
Email Address:	Narong.yak@gmail.com
Zip Code:	810008
Telephone Number	138-0818-4283
Fax Number	None

B: Information about the Project:

1. **German Embassy Funds:** 78,800 RMB

2. **Total Local Contribution:** 8,000 RMB

3. Accomplishments:

- 40 threshing machines were provided to 285 Tibetan Households.
- 285 women and 570 girls directly benefited.
- Eight impoverished households of disabled members were assisted with charity funds created from the local contribution.

4. Benefits:

The project beneficiaries are approximately 570 women and girls from 285 households in Pizza and Tongxia townships. Women and girls are enjoying the most immediate and tangible benefits from this project. With a drastically reduced workload during September, October, November and parts of December women now use their time in different ways. Girls who are students are free to spend more time on their studies. Also, this project will help change gender conceptions over the long-run as women and girls may achieve a more important role in the home by obtaining more education and more cash income through paid labor. As they generate their own income or turn to more skilled labor, women's traditional identity and roles in Tibetan society may change in positive ways. The benefits for the rest of the community are less tangible and are related to the benefits that women and girls enjoy. This project progressively results in a more sustainable livelihood for the community as women and girls use their time to participate in wage labour, education, and other valued spheres.

Threshing grain is an outdoor activity that exposes women and girls to harsh seasonal conditions and contributes to a pattern of female chronic diseases. Fortunately such difficulties and sufferings created by traditional harvesting methods are now eliminated.

Additional beneficiaries of the project are eight of the most impoverished households--about 23 people. Most of these people are disabled and elderly people who have no supporters. The charity service fund created from local contribution is used to assist them for necessities.

5. Sustainability

Threshing machines are simply comprised and the company in Chengdu guaranteed to replace elements for auto-malfunction in the first year. Small machines that generate and transmit electricity to threshing machines are affordable and can be replaced by households. Beneficiaries and local project committee reached agreement to use machines harmoniously, moreover; necessary repairs will be made by all households.

6. Selecting Recipients:

On average 70% of households from every village did not have threshing machines. The project committee and manager selected three recipient groups from every village, 5-7 impoverished households and other households who lacked threshing machines formed recipient group by themselves; and several small villages formed recipient groups on the basis of every 3-5 households. In Tongxia Township, 90% of village households lacked threshing machines. Three threshing machines were given to every village. On their own, villagers formed groups of 10. In total, six villages received 18 units and one village received two units.

7. Project Implementation Record:

2007	Activities	Participants
July-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market research done Good quality products purchased Threshing machines transported to the project site Meetings held 	Project committee, manager, village leaders, beneficiaries, local township governmental officials
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings held; recipients selected Local contribution collected Machines distributed Machines transported to villages 	Project committee, manager, village leaders, beneficiaries, local township governmental officials
October	Final report written and submitted	Manager
November	Machines used; more photos taken; interviews done.	Manager
December	A report consisting of photos and interview information will be submitted	Manager

8. Finances

Budget		
Item	Total Amount approved RMB	Total Amount Received RMB
Total fund	78,800	78,800
Budget for machines	74,000	74,000
Transportation fee for machines	4,800	4,800
Local contribution	8,000	8,000
Total Budget		84,800
Actual Cost		
Item	Description	Cost/RMB
Machines	40 threshing machines purchased in Chengdu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threshing machine 40 sets @ 1,120RMB per threshing machine power generator 40 sets x 755 RMB per 	75,000
Transportation fee	Chengdu--Pizza 3,400 RMB; Pizza--Tongxia: 270 RMB	3,670
Total		78,670¹
Local Contribution: 8,000 RMB		
7,700	Eight Impoverished households received 7,700 RMB	7,700
300	Prayer flag purchase	300
Total		8,000

Receipts:

Receipt N ^o .	Item	Amount RMB
1.	Threshing machines	44,800
2.	Threshing machine power generators	30,200
3.	Transportation fee: Chengdu--Pizza	3,400
4.	Transportation fee: Pizza--Tongxia	270
Total		78,670

¹ 130RMB is returned to the German Embassy.

RECEIPTS

Recipients

[illegible][illegible]

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અમરકાંત | પુનઃસંસ્કાર
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પ્રવાસ | અમરકાંત |
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ORIGINAL PROPOSAL



Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Peking
Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany

**Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished
Households
to
Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls**

A: Brief Introduction of Locality

Project Name: Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households to Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls

Project Location: Pizza and Tongxia Townships, Nagrong County, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.

Ethnic Population: 1,590 people from five administrative villages in Pizza Township and 1,310 people from Tongxia Township in Nagrong County. All are Tibetan.

Economic Situation of the Ethnic Group:

- Growing barley, wheat, potato, bean, raising livestock, and collecting and selling caterpillar fungus.
- Ninety percent of households have no income other than from selling animal products and caterpillar fungus.
- Local people often go beg in Tibetan areas for food. Local people also borrow money from Credit Cooperatives at very high interest rates.

h) Contact Information:

Contact Person:	Kevin Stuart, Sonam Wogyal, and Yeshi Gyaltso
Address:	English Training Program, Qinghai Nationalities Teachers' College Qinghai Normal University, Xining City 810008, PR China
Email Address:	Narong.yak@gmail.com
Zip Code:	810008
Telephone Number	971-6318505 (Kevin Stuart) 139-9720-0589 (Sonam Wogyal)

B: Project Information

Applicant and Implementation Group

The group is comprised of local people and other volunteers. The involvement of local people in implementing project greatly affects the efficiency and quality of projects. The exact number of the volunteers is dependent on the nature of the project. For this proposal, we anticipate five volunteers who will coordinate locally and purchase machines.

Sonam Wogyal is a program assistant in the English Training Program, Qinghai Nationalities Teacher's College, Qinghai Normal University. He comes from Pizza Township, Nagrong County, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. He has studied English for five years and is the only local from his township who has had the chance to receive an education in a university since 1949. His involvement with the ETP has exposed him to such NGOs as the Snowland Service Group (Yushu) and the Sanchuan Development Association (Minhe County). As a result, Sonam and his informal group have successfully implemented the projects detailed below.

Sonam Wogyal, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Stuart, began fundraising for small-scale, grassroots development projects in the fall of 2003. Working closely with local people, Sonam Wogyal has successfully implemented three health care projects, five library projects, four solar energy projects, one second-hand clothes project, one female yak and *zomo* purchase project, and one electricity transformer project:

Project Name	Location	Donor Contribution RMB	Local Contribution RMB	Details
Traditional Tibetan Medicine Health Clinic	Pizza Region, Nagrong, County, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan	British Embassy: 85,763.50	20,500: labor and cash	8,500 Tibetans from 2 semi-nomad townships, and 1 nomad township. 800 pilgrims annually benefit. This project provides better and more efficient, culturally-friendly health care.
Solar Electricity Generating Panels for An Impoverished Tibetan Community	Rashi Nomad Community, Larima Township, Nagrong County, Ganze Prefecture	German Embassy: 71,780	9,000.	90 nomadic (560 Tibetans) households benefited. The project saves them money; provides for longer working hours; and decreases lung-related health issues. See: http://www.thdl.org/community/pdfs/LarimaSolarPanelAndLibraryRep.pdf
Solar Electricity Generating Panels for Impoverished Ascetics in Yaqin Monastery	Yaqin Monastery, Duokuo Township, Beiyu County, Ganze	Canada Fund: 7,350	710	Lighting for 85 impoverished nuns and monks from Qinghai, Tibet, and Ganze.
Equipment and Traditional Tibetan Medicine for a Local Tibetan- Staffed Health Clinic	Pizza Region, Nagrong, County	Good Works: 43,280	5,000 annual value of medicinal herbs collected by locals	Health care for 5,600 people annually in 3 townships.
Traditional Tibetan Medicine for Yaqin Monastery Health Clinic	Yaqin Monastery	Good Works: 164,850	1,200 in transportation fee	33,375 nuns and monks from Tibet, Qinghai, and Sichuan plus 645 old folks from northern nomadic and agricultural regions; and 350 nomads from Dukho Township. Annually 250 Pilgrims from Ganze and Yushu Tibetan autonomous prefectures benefit.
Solar Electricity Generating Panels for 123 Impoverished Ashe Xuncha Ma Nomadic Households & Two Student Dormitory Rooms	Ashe Xuncha Ma Nomad Community, Yindo Township, Nagrong, County	Good Works: 88,560	12,300	123 households (861 nomads) and two dormitory rooms (20 students).
Solar Electricity	Yaqin Monastery	Good Works:	3,500	105 poor nuns, monks, and homeless old folks

Generating Panels for 105 Impoverished Ascetics in Yaqin Monastery		25,200		plus 30 pilgrims annually.
Library Project	Dar khe Elementary School, Gar khe Township, Nagrong County	Local contribution created from German Embassy and Good Works funded projects. 4,960	bookshelves and library room	160 Tibetan students from six grades and 7 teachers.
Library Project	Luo An Elementary school, Gar khe Township	Local contribution created from German Embassy and Good Works funded projects. 4,960	bookshelves and library room	80 Tibetan students from 4 grades and 4 teachers.
Library Project	Larima School	Local contribution created from German Embassy and Good Works funded projects. 4,960	bookshelves and library room	130 Tibetan students and six teachers.
Library Project	Tongxia School, Tongxia Township, Nagrong, County	Local contribution created from German Embassy and Good Works funded projects. 4,960	bookshelves and library room	110 students, 30 young monks, 40 older monks, local literate people, seven teachers.
Library Project	Nagrong Middle School, Nagrong County	Local contribution created from Germany and Good Works Funded Projects. 4,960	bookshelves and library room	512 students and 15 teachers.
Second Hand Clothes	Pizza Region	65 pieces of clothes		53 people received clothing.
Purchase Female Yaks and Zomo Project	Pizza Region and Tongxia Region	Germany Embassy 77,300 RMB	9,800 RMB	480 of the most impoverished Tibetans
Solar Electricity Generating Panels Project	Yaqin Monastery, Beiyu County	Germany Embassy 76,100 RMB	10,000 RMB	140 ascetics, 23 children, and 18 elderly residents
Electricity Transformer for Hoga Village	Hoga Village, Pizza Region	Germany Embassy 14,500 RMB	400 RMB	Eight households and 66 people benefited from this project.

In total, these projects are benefiting approximately 21,077 people. Health care projects provide service for 5,600 people annually in three townships and 33,375 nuns and monks from Tibet, Qinghai, and Sichuan plus 645 old folks from northern nomad and agricultural regions; and 350 nomads from Dukho Township. Annually 250 Pilgrims from Ganze and Yushu Tibetan autonomous prefectures benefit.

The projects we hope to do in future are in the fields of health care, education, solar energy, income generation and improvement of local diet through livestock purchase, housing improvement, and cultural preservation. The projects completed by this group benefit impoverished local people in culturally appropriate and efficient ways.

This informal group has been doing projects since late 2003 and closely works with locals in implementations. Their efforts and sincere appreciation are highly valued by donors and local people hence they have much confidence to overcome challenges.

State the Problem:

In most areas, much of the labor surrounding crops harvest is done by machines, and hence people are eligible to do other work to alleviate poverty. But the target is totally marginalized from development. Most labor continues to be done in a traditional way that is time-consuming and physically demanding.

Certain households in the area have been able to afford grain threshing machines. When neighboring households realized how much time these machines saved their owners during the harvest season, they began to wonder if they could purchase such machines. As the cost is prohibitive for most households, they approached Sonam Wogyal and asked if he could help, since he had recently been successful in finding funds for other projects.

The project is needed for two important reasons: (1) currently, threshing grain requires much time and prevents women and girls from engaging in other productive activities, and (2) threshing grain is an outdoor activity that exposes women and girls to harsh seasonal conditions and contributes to a pattern of female chronic diseases. Traditionally, women and girls from these Tibetan communities must work around seven hours a day for three months threshing grain. Women and girls add this important task to an already overburdened household workload. Threshing is a time-consuming and physically demanding. Furthermore, as this task is performed September-December, women and girls are subject to harsh weather conditions. Often, their toes and hands are covered with chilblains after they work for one week or so in the cold season. In addition, women are expected to do housework simultaneously and this increases the pain in their hands because they wash their hands repeatedly in cold water. The cold and wind in this high elevation location combined with labor responsibilities make women susceptible to various seasonal illnesses and chronic diseases, such as arthritis.

This project will promote development in the community as women and girls use their time to participate in wage labor, education, and other valued spheres.

Proposed Solutions:

Sonam Wogyal and the Threshing Machine Project Committee will select the 120 poorest households (with 40 grain threshing machines purchased with the donor's contribution, three households will share one machine) and distribute the threshing machines to them. The machines will eliminate the need for vast quantities of time-consuming, physically demanding labor that is predominantly performed by women and girls. More specifically, what has historically required three months of full day labor will be completed in just three days with a threshing machine. In addition, every three households that receive a threshing machine will contribute 150RMB to a charity fund, designed to meet other local needs. This fund will be managed by Sonam Wogyal and the Project Committee.

Activities Timetable:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • June 2007 | Funds received |
| • July -August 2007 | Machines purchased, transported, and distributed |
| • October 2007 | Final report is written and submitted |

Sustainability:

Threshing machines are simply comprised; the company in Chengdu will guarantee to replace elements for auto-malfunctions in the first year. Small machines that generate and transmit electricity to threshing machines are affordable and can be replaced by three households. Overall, because of the important value and co-use and co-ownership by three households, the threshing machines will be functional for a longtime in future.

Beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries of this project are the poorest 120 households from 23 villages comprised of 464 agricultural households in Pizza and Tongxia townships. Women and girls will enjoy the most immediate and tangible benefits from this project. With a drastically reduced workload during September, October, November and parts of December, women will be able to use their time in other productive ways, such as in the household, on wage labor, or for much deserved leisure time. Girls will be able to spend more time on their studies (those who are students). Also, this project will help change gender concepts over the long-run as women and girls may get more out of education or paid labor. As they generate their own

income or turn to more skilled labor, women's traditional identity and roles in Tibetan society may change in positive ways.

The benefits for the rest of the community are less tangible and are related to the benefits that women and girls will enjoy. This project will result in a more sustainable livelihood for the community as women and girls use their time to participate in wage labor, education, and other valued spheres.

Additional beneficiaries of the project will be other local people in need of charity services. The 50 RMB collected from each project recipient will create a fund of 6,000 RMB and will be able to meet other serious needs in the area.

Budget:

Item	Cost RMB
Donor Contribution	
Grain threshing machines: 40 machines (120 households) x 1,850 RMB	74,000
Transportation fee for machines (Chengdu--Pizaa--Tongxia)	4,800
Total	78,800
Local Contribution	
50 RMB per household x 120	6,000
Total	6,000
TOTAL BUDGET RMB	84,800

Use of Local Contribution:

The six thousand RMB local contribution will be used to help certain of the most underprivileged people to better their life, e.g., a childless couple now in their late 50s who soon will be too old to work to stay alive and a man whose right leg was amputated and who now he is one of the poorest nomad households in the local community (unfortunately, his son has a problem with his left hand and left leg). This family is struggling to live. The local contribution will be used to help these two families to create sustainable income generating opportunities. Local beneficiaries would also like to three hundred RMB from the local contribution to offer sincere prayers and lasting peace to all who have people who contributed to this project.